

REMARKS

I. General.

Applicant respectfully requests that the docket number in the present application be changed from GTDV120953 to 80100/007.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 13, 15, 20, 24, and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,333,998 to Shook (hereinafter referred to as "Shook"). For at least the reasons that follow, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1, 2, 9, 13, 15, 20, 24, and 28.

II. Shook does not teach or suggest all the elements of claims 1, 2, 9, 13, 15, 20, 24, and 28.

Independent claims 1 and 13, recite that the interference of the first engagement surface with the first interference surface couples the gripping device to the actuation member and holds the gripping device in the locked position. Independent claim 24 recites that engagement of the first protrusion against the limit stop and engagement of the locking member against the first projection or the first protrusion couple the gripping device to the actuation member and hold the gripping device in the locked position.

According to the Examiner, Shook teaches a locked position when clutch member 5' is shifted toward and engaged to the clutch member 5. Furthermore, according to the Examiner, the teeth 6 on the clutch member 5 and the teeth 7 on the clutch member 5' constitute the respective engagement and interference surfaces recited in the claims. Thus, according to the Examiner, Shook teaches a locked position where interference of the teeth 6 and 7 couples the clutch member 5' to the clutch member 5.

Applicant respectfully points out that the teeth 6 and 7 of Shook do not hold the clutch member 5' in a locked position. Shook teaches that the expansible member E or spring engages an abutment for maintaining the crank C normally free of the shaft S. Shook, Pg. 1, Col. 2, ll. 96-101. Thus, in Shook, the crank C is normally free of the shaft S and the clutch member 5' is normally free from the clutch member 5. In fact, in Shook, the clutch members 5 and 5' engaged via the application of physical force by a user. In particular, a user must exert a physical force on the crank C, in the direction of clutch member 5, that is sufficient to overcome the biasing force exerted by the spring E before the clutch member 5' will engage with the clutch member 5. Once in this position, it is the continued application of this force that holds the clutch member 5' in this position,

rather than interference between the teeth 6 and 7. Removal of this force results in the spring E returning the clutch 5' to its normal disengaged position.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Shook fails to teach or suggest a locked position, wherein the interference of the first engagement surface with the first interference surface ... holds the gripping device in the locked position, as recited in claims 1 and 13. Furthermore, in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Shook fails to teach or suggest a locked position, wherein engagement of the first protrusion against the limit stop and engagement of the locking member against the first projection or the first protrusion ... hold the gripping device in the locked position, as recited in claim 24. Therefore, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of independent claims 1, 13, and 24 and claims 2, 9, 15, 20, and 28, which depend from claims 1, 13, or 24.

III. Conclusion

Applicant submits that the subject matter of the present application is novel, nonobvious, and useful. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn and that the present application issue as early as possible.

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/Michael Pruden/
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